

Appl. No 10/724,935

Amdt. Dated 09/06/2005

Reply to Office action of 08/26/2005

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A rolling element retainer comprising:

a plurality of partitions for separating sequential rolling elements from each other, each partition is provided at both sides with a curved face in corresponding to a curvature of the rolling elements;

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a plurality of link-rings for connecting the partitions together;

wherein each of the partitions and the link-rings is an independent unit, the rolling element retainer comprises a plurality of such independent units, the engagement between the respective independent units is achieved by a cylindrical ring portion swingably engaged with a curved surface, by this way, a rolling element retainer can be formed by alternatively connecting the link-rings and the partitions together, and such that the rolling element retainer can [has] have a good cornering ability.

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2. (previously presented) The rolling element retainer as claimed in

claim 1, wherein each of the partitions is provided with a trough, whereas each of the link-rings is provided with ring portion, a rolling element retainer with desired length can be formed by engaging the ring portion of the link-rings in the trough of the partitions.

5 3. (previously presented) The rolling element retainer as claimed in claim 2, wherein the trough of each of the partitions is formed with a curved bottom so as to allow relative angular movement in left-to-right direction between the partition and the link-ring.

10 4. (Original) The rolling element retainer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ring portion of each of the link-rings is slightly cylindrical shaped, so as to allow relative angular movement in vertical direction between the partition and the link-ring.

15 5. (previously presented) The rolling element retainer as claimed in claims 2 or 3, wherein each of the link-rings is an O-ring shaped structure having a ring portion defined at its both sides, on both sides of each of the partitions is provided an trough, so that a rolling element retainer with desired length can be formed by engaging the ring portions of the link-rings respectively in the troughs of the partitions.

20 6. (Currently amended) The rolling element retainer as claimed in claims 2 or 3, wherein each of the link-rings is a C-shaped ring having [twp] two fixing ends, and another side of each of the partitions opposite to the trough is provided with a groove for engaging with the fixing ends of the link-ring, such that the link-ring can be connected to the partition.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (previously presented) The rolling element retainer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the respective link-rings and the partitions are made of wear-resisting flexible material, so as to improve the cornering ability and
5 prolong the service life of the rolling element retainer.